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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/062,957	01/31/2002	Fangjiang Guo	88164.000002	4571
23387	7590	08/25/2004	EXAMINER	
Stephen B. Salai, Esq. Harter, Secrest & Emery LLP 1600 Bausch & Lomb Place Rochester, NY 14604-2711			GRILES, BETHANY L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3643	

DATE MAILED: 08/25/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/062,957

Applicant(s)

GUO, FANGJIANG

Examiner

Bethany L. Griles

Art Unit

3643

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 May 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 and 36-51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34, 36-51 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Prosecution on the merits of this application is reopened. Upon reconsideration of the claim language, patentably distinct inventions are claimed. Therefore, restriction is deemed proper. Examiner regrets any inconvenience to Applicant.

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

This application does not contain an abstract of the disclosure as required by 37 CFR 1.72(b). An abstract on a separate sheet is required.

- I. Claims 1-11, drawn to a method of loading an animal into a milking stall, classified in class 119, subclass 441.
- II. Claims 12-21, drawn to rearwardly loading an animal into a milking stall from a cart, classified in class 119, subclass 412.
- III. Claims 22-31, drawn to loading an animal into a transport cart and then moving the animal to a new location, classified in class 119, subclass 408.
- IV. Claims 32-41, drawn to moving an animal into a transport cart and then into a milking stall, classified in class 119, subclass 412.
- V. Claims 42-51, drawn to a milking parlor, classified in class 119, subclass 14.03.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I-IV and V are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case any of the methods disclosed to place animals in a position to be milked could be utilized outside of the milking parlor disclosed in claims 42-51. Furthermore, the transport cart disclosed in the immediate specification could be used to transport any of a variety of equipment, supplies, or other commodities other than livestock. The disclosed milking parlor of Group V could be used as a storage facility.

Inventions I and II; I and III; I and IV; II and III; II and IV, III and IV are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination.

Regarding Groups I and II, I could be used to load any type of chattel into a stall, and II could be used to transport animals or chattel from a cart to a remote location.

Regarding Groups I and III, I could be used to load any type of chattel into a stall, and III could be used to load and move any type of chattel.

Regarding Groups I and IV, I could be used to load any type of chattel into a stall, and IV could be used to move chattel within a warehouse or other storage facility.

Regarding Groups II and III, Group II could be used to transport chattel to a remote location via a cart, and III could be used to load and move any type of chattel.

Art Unit: 3643

Regarding Groups II and IV, Group II could be used to transport chattel to a remote location via a cart, and Group IV could be used to move chattel within a warehouse or other storage facility.

Regarding Groups III and IV, Group III could be used to load and move any type of chattel, and Group IV could be used to move chattel within a warehouse or other storage facility.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Again, Examiner regrets any inconvenience to the Applicant.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bethany L. Griles whose telephone number is 703.305.1839. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm.

Art Unit: 3643

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter M. Poon can be reached on 703.308.2574. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Bethany L. Griles
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Examiner
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